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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,919	11/19/2003	Paul Bruschi	2003P00794US01	6419

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Siemens Corporation
Intellectual Property Department
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

KOHUT, DAVID M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3626

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/17/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/716,919	Applicant(s) BRUSCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner David M. Kohut, Esq.	Art Unit 3626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/19/03, 5/11/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed on 19 November 2003. Claims 1-33 are pending. The IDS statements filed 19 November 2003 and 11 May 2006 have been entered and considered.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application (Provisional 60/441,493, filed 21 January 2003) under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6, 9-19, and 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight, Publication No. 2002/0099570, reference A on the attached PTO-892, in view of Thomas et al., Publication No. 2004/0078238, reference B on the attached PTO-892.
5. As per claim 1, Knight teaches a method for identifying clinical trial candidates (see abstract of Knight), the method comprising: receiving from a patient clinical data source, patient data including identities of patients (see page 3, paragraph 0058, lines 1-4 of Knight); forwarding the patient data to a clinical trial candidate identification

Art Unit: 3626

service (see page 3, paragraph 0058, lines 1-4 of Knight); and receiving from the clinical trial candidate identification service a clinical trial candidate proposal corresponding to a proposed clinical trial candidate (see page 3, paragraph 0058 of Knight). However, Knight does not explicitly teach the method wherein identities of the patients are replaced, determined, and forwarded thereby allowing anonymity. Thomas et al., however does teach a method comprising the steps of: replacing the identities of the patients in the patient data with secure patient codes (see page 2, paragraph 0014, lines 4-7 of Thomas et al.); determining an identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate from the secure patient code (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.); and forwarding the identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate to a candidate contact (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these features into the method of Knight. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide an apparatus and method for anonymizing medical data with improved patient file continuity (see page 1, paragraph 0007, lines 1-3 of Thomas et al.).

6. As per claim 2, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the candidate contact is a health care provider of the candidate (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.).

7. As per claim 3, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Knight further teaches the method wherein the candidate contact is

the proposed clinical trial candidate (see page 4, paragraph 0070, lines 11-14 of Knight).

8. As per claim 4, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the step of replacing the identities of the patients in the patient data with secure patient codes comprises encrypting the identities to create secure patient codes (see page 2, paragraph 0014, lines 4-7 of Thomas et al.); and the step of determining an identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate comprises decrypting the secure patient code corresponding to the proposed clinical trial candidate (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.).

9. As per claim 5, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the step of replacing the identities of the patients in the patient data with secure patient codes comprises replacing the identities with unique codes and maintaining a table correlating the identities with the unique codes (see page 2, paragraph 0015, lines 10-21 of Thomas et al.); and the step of determining an identity of the proposed clinical trial candidate comprises looking up in the table an identity of a patient corresponding to the secure patient code (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.).

10. As per claim 6, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method further comprising the step of extracting patient medical information from the patient data received from a patient clinical data source (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 10-13 of Thomas et al.).

11. As per claim 9, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the clinical data source is a hospital network (see page 1, paragraph 0002, lines 10-12 of Thomas et al.).

12. As per claim 10, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Knight further teaches the method further comprising the steps of: receiving from the candidate contact a status of the clinical trial candidate proposal (see page 4, paragraph 0070, lines 11-14 of Knight); and forwarding the status to the clinical trial candidate identification service (see page 4, paragraph 0070, lines 11-14 of Knight).

13. As per claim 11, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Knight further teaches the method wherein the status includes the identity of the proposed candidate (see page 4, paragraph 0070, lines 11-14 of Knight). Thomas et al. further teaches the method further comprising the step of replacing the identity of the proposed candidate with a secure patient code before forwarding the status to the clinical trial candidate identification service (see page 2, paragraph 0015, lines 10-21 of Thomas et al.).

14. As per claim 12, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. Knight further teaches the method further comprising the steps of: receiving from the clinical trial candidate identification service, descriptive information about a clinical trial of the clinical trial candidate proposal (see page 6, paragraph 0099, lines 3-6 of Knight); and forwarding the information to the candidate contact (see page 6, paragraph 0099, lines 3-6 of Knight).

15. As per claim 13, Knight teaches a method for identifying clinical trial candidates (see abstract of Knight), the method comprising: receiving at least one clinical data record (see page 3, paragraph 0058, lines 1-4 of Knight); receiving a candidate selection criterion for a clinical trial (see page 3, paragraph 0058 of Knight); searching the at least one clinical data record for a matching clinical data record based on the candidate selection criteria (see page 3, paragraph 0058 of Knight); and if a matching clinical data record is found, then forwarding a contact request from the matching clinical data record (see page 4, paragraph 0070, lines 11-14 of Knight). However, Knight does not explicitly teach the method wherein each record includes a secure patient code thereby allowing anonymity. Thomas et al., however does teach a method wherein each record includes clinical data and a secure patient code uniquely identifying the record without revealing an identity of a corresponding patient (see page 2, paragraph 0014, lines 4-7 of Thomas et al.); and forwarding a contact request including at least a secure patient code from the matching clinical data record (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these features into the method of Knight. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide an apparatus and method for anonymizing medical data with improved patient file continuity (see page 1, paragraph 0007, lines 1-3 of Thomas et al.).

16. As per claim 14, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the contact

Art Unit: 3626

request is forwarded to a trusted entity having an identity of a patient corresponding to the forwarded secure patient code (see page 3, paragraph 0017, lines 13-17 of Thomas et al.).

17. As per claim 15, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the secure patient code is an encrypted identity of a patient (see page 2, paragraph 0014, lines 4-7 of Thomas et al.).

18. As per claim 16, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the secure patient code is a unique code corresponding to an entry in a table accessible to a trusted entity (see page 2, paragraph 0015, lines 10-21 of Thomas et al.).

19. As per claim 17, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Knight further teaches the method further comprising the step of receiving descriptive information about the clinical trial, and wherein the contact request includes the descriptive information (see page 6, paragraph 0099, lines 3-6 of Knight).

20. As per claim 18, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the at least one clinical data record is received from a data exchange service (see page 2, paragraph 0013, lines 2-6 of Thomas et al.).

21. As per claim 19, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 18 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein the secure patient

code corresponding to a matching clinical data record is forwarded to the data exchange service (see page 2, paragraph 0014 of Thomas et al.).

22. As per claim 23, Knight teaches a method for selecting clinical trial candidates (see abstract of Knight), the method comprising the steps of: periodically receiving clinical data records, each said record including clinical data (see page 3, paragraph 0058, lines 1-4 of Knight); and periodically searching the data records to identify records of clinical trial candidates (see page 3, paragraph 0058, lines 15-18 of Knight).

However, Knight does not explicitly teach the method of a secure patient code. Thomas et al., however, does teach the method comprising a secure patient code uniquely identifying the record without revealing an identity of a corresponding patient (see page 2, paragraph 0015, lines 10-21 of Thomas et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate these features into the method of Knight. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to provide an apparatus and method for anonymizing medical data with improved patient file continuity (see page 1, paragraph 0007, lines 1-3 of Thomas et al.).

23. System claims 24-30 and 33 repeat the subject matter of claims 23, 1, 10, 13, 4-6, and 9 (respectively) as a set of "means-plus-function" elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of Knight and Thomas et al. in the above rejection of claims 23, 1, 10, 13, 4-6, and 9, it is readily apparent that the Knight and Thomas et al. references include a system to perform the recited functions. As such, these limitations are rejected for the

Art Unit: 3626

same reasons provided in the rejection of claims 23, 1, 10, 13, 4-6, and 9 and incorporated herein.

24. Claims 7 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight, Publication No. 2002/0099570, reference A on the attached PTO-892, in view of Thomas et al., Publication No. 2004/0078238, reference B on the attached PTO-892, and Thangaraj et al., Publication No. 2003/0208378, reference C on the attached PTO-892.

25. As per claim 7, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. However, neither Knight nor Thomas et al. explicitly teach the method of reformatting the data. Thangaraj et al., however, does teach the method comprising the step of reformatting the patient data received from a patient clinical data source (see page 2, paragraph 0019, lines 6-11 of Thangaraj et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the methods of Knight and Thomas et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features to allow data to be captured from and provided to a number of different data sources regardless of data format (see page 2, paragraph 0019, lines 1-3 of Thangaraj et al.).

26. System claim 31 repeats the subject matter of claim 7 as a set of "means-plus-function" elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of Knight, Thomas et al., and Thangaraj et al. in the above rejection of claim 7, it is readily apparent that the Knight, Thomas et al., and Thangaraj et al. references include a system to perform the recited functions. As

such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claim 7 and incorporated herein.

27. Claims 8, 20-21, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight, Publication No. 2002/0099570, reference A on the attached PTO-892, in view of Thomas et al., Publication No. 2004/0078238, reference B on the attached PTO-892, and Saeed et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,915,266, reference D on the attached PTO-892.

28. As per claim 8, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 1 as described above. However, neither Knight nor Thomas et al. explicitly teach the method wherein the database contains transactions. Saeed et al., however, teaches a method which has a database containing transactions between health care providers and payers (see column 9, lines 21-29 of Saeed et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the methods of Knight and Thomas et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to conduct audits and information tracking (see column 9, lines 28-29 of Saeed et al.).

29. As per claim 20, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. However, neither Knight nor Thomas et al. explicitly teach the method wherein the database contains transactions. Saeed et al., however, teaches a method wherein the at least one clinical data record is received from an entity controlling a database containing transactions between health care providers and payers (see column 9, lines 21-29 of Saeed et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 3626

skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the methods of Knight and Thomas et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to conduct audits and information tracking (see column 9, lines 28-29 of Saeed et al.).

30. As per claim 21, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. Thomas et al. further teaches the method wherein a secure patient code corresponds to a matching clinical data record (see page 2, paragraph 0014 of Thomas et al.). However, neither Knight nor Thomas et al. explicitly teach the method wherein the data record is forwarded to an entity controlling a database containing transactions. Saeed et al., however, teaches a method wherein the clinical data record is forwarded to an entity controlling a database containing transactions between health care providers and payers (see column 9, lines 21-29 of Saeed et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the methods of Knight and Thomas et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to conduct audits and information tracking (see column 9, lines 28-29 of Saeed et al.).

31. System claim 32 repeats the subject matter of claim 8 as a set of "means-plus-function" elements rather than a series of steps. As the underlying process has been shown to be fully disclosed by the teachings of Knight, Thomas et al., and Saeed et al. in the above rejection of claim 8, it is readily apparent that the Knight, Thomas et al., and Saeed et al. references include a system to perform the recited functions. As such,

Art Unit: 3626

these limitations are rejected for the same reasons provided in the rejection of claim 8 and incorporated herein.

32. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knight, Publication No. 2002/0099570, reference A on the attached PTO-892, in view of Thomas et al., Publication No. 2004/0078238, reference B on the attached PTO-892, and Smith et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,111,395, reference E on the attached PTO-892.

33. As per claim 22, Knight and Thomas et al. teach the method of claim 13 as described above. However, neither Knight nor Thomas et al. teach the method wherein a contact request is only sent once for each clinical data record. Smith et al., however, does teach a method comprising the steps of: maintaining records of matching data records (see column 2, lines 35-44 of Smith et al.); and wherein the step of forwarding a contact request including a secure patient code is performed only if that code has not already been forwarded (wherein the secure patient code is a contact name and number in the prior art) (see column 2, lines 35-44 of Smith et al.). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate this feature into the methods of Knight and Thomas et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine these features in order to eliminate duplicate records (see column 1, line 40 of Smith et al.).

Conclusion

34. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied prior art teaches system for processing and consolidating records (Publication No. 2003/0046280) and handheld device

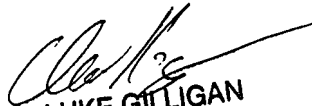
graphical user interfaces for displaying patient medical records (Publication No. 2003/0179223).

35. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Kohut, Esq. whose telephone number is 571-270-1369. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 730-5 w/1st Fri off. 2nd Fri 730-4.

36. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

37. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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